

Honorable Representatives, Senators, Connecticut citizens, thank you for your time. My name is Cassandra Meehan and I am the sister of the acclaimed medical marijuana refugee, Cyndimae.

There is a bill that has the chance to make medical marijuana legal for *everyone* in Connecticut- specifically those who are under 18. This may not seem like a huge deal to some people but realistically, it is a game changer and a lifesaver for many families and their children.

For the past year or so, my family has been split up and separated for the sake of my sister, Cyndimae. She and my mother had to move to another state (Maine) to provide Cyndimae with what has saved her life- medical marijuana. There have been stretches of time that I do not see my sister or mother for months at a time because I am an active member in my school and have an extremely full schedule that does not allow for me to go up and visit frequently. However, when I *do* see my sister, the improvements are especially obvious due to the separation. She can *walk*- without a helmet, without someone right by her side to catch her if she falls, without anything except her own newfound capability. Seeing Cyndimae perform a task that most people do not even think about with similar ease is pretty amazing, when only months before she was wheelchair-bound everywhere she went. The reason for her previous lack of mobility was because of the pharmaceutical drugs she had to take and more often than not they prevented her from things like walking. With medical marijuana, she can do so much more. For instance, Cyndi can actually watch and enjoy the shows and movies that she picks out. She can actually "help" Dora when she asks where Swiper the Fox is and she is aware enough to pick a different DVD when it's over. Gone are the days of watching Finding Nemo six times in one day, an impressive feat for Cyndi and simply relieving for us.

Now, these two examples may not seem particularly spectacular but believe me when I say, to people who have watched her grow up and seen her at her lowest points, she is an astronomically different child and it is because of medical marijuana. Why should it be anyone besides a doctor or parent's decision to deny their child a life-saving and game-changing medication? Please allow this medicine to help children in their home state. I would like to continue to see my sister grow and live here- not through the screen of a phone. Thank you.

Cassandra H. Meehan
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